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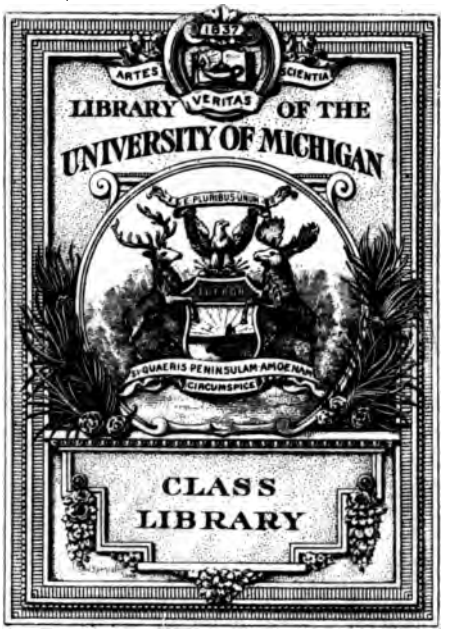
Willard. What is public library finding list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CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF PITTSBURGH

WHAT A PUBLIC LIBRARY FINDS TO DO

By ELISA MAY WILLARD, Reference Librarian

Reprinted from the Monthly Bulletin, February 1917

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What a Public Library Finds to Do

This paper was read by Miss Willard before the Twentieth Century Club of this city on January 15. We are glad to present it to the readers of the Bulletin because of the interesting way in which it tells what the Library is doing. It will perhaps interest most those who, like the members of the club for which it was written, are in the habit of taking books from the Central Library, of using its Reference Room and Periodical Room, but who have no occasion to call upon its other resources and so do not know in how many other ways it serves many other classes of readers—specialists in scientific and technical lines, foreigners who know no English, college students, the blind, children from the kindergarten age up, employees of large establishments who cannot easily come to the Library, clubs of working men and women who meet in its various auditoriums and club-rooms.

You will understand that throughout this talk I am speaking of the Library proper, not the Art Gallery or Museum, which are endowed by Mr Carnegie and are under quite separate management. Mr Carnegie gave the Central building and the eight branch library buildings, but the book-bills and salaries and all other expenses have always been paid by the city. Therefore the citizens should have a special sense of ownership in what is their own property. Some people show that they have this feeling by saying "Have *we* such-and-such a book in the Library?" or "I think *we* should buy this book." I confess that this special expression of the sense of community ownership always gives us much pleasure.

Sometimes there is an apology or excuse with a request—"I ought not to trouble you," or "I'm afraid I ought not to take your time for this," and then we feel like saying: "It is our business to assist you in any way in our power. That is what we are here for. You and

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530,000 other people have engaged us to do this very thing." A library, in our conception, is not a place for storing books and handing them out on request. It is a headquarters for any information which may be found in books or in the brains of well-informed people. If there are any of you here who have never made any use of the Library I don't see how you have escaped. Perhaps it is because you did not realize that if you had forgotten the address of a friend in San Francisco you could call up the Library and ask for it; or if you could not decide upon a suitable book to give a ten-year-old child you could ask the Library for a list of books for a child of that age; or if you had a club paper to write you could telephone to the Library to have the best available material on that subject ready for you at ten o'clock the next morning; or if you wanted to know at first hand, we will say, what the London, Paris and Italian daily papers said about Germany's peace proposals you could consult the London "Times," the Paris "Figaro" and the Rome "Tribuna" at the Library; or if you wanted a book not in this Library we could borrow it for you from Boston or Chicago or Washington or Princeton; or if you were haunted by lines of a poem that you could not quite remember you could call up the Library and have the poem read to you over the telephone.

I am speaking here of uses which can be made of the Library even by people who prefer to buy and own most of the books they read. But even such readers must depend on the Library for unusual or old books, for imported and rare books, and for many which it is not possible to buy when they are wanted.

The Carnegie Library costs the city of Pittsburgh from $230,000 to $260,000 a year, the appropriation varying from year to year. Would you not like to know what the Library does, in return, for the citizens? I am going to speak of the Library now in the first person plural for the Library is not an impersonal "It" to me.

We, then, first, to speak of the Lending Department, provide a lending collection of books, carefully selected, well cared for, kept in order, intelligently catalogued. The Lending Department, besides serving the public who come there for books, is constantly sending out books wanted to the branch libraries, and to schools. Even people who are very familiar with the large Central Library building forget that there are eight branch buildings, each one the size of a small city library, located in thickly populated parts of the city not within easy reach of Schenley Park—East Liberty, Homewood, Hazelwood, Carson street on the South Side, on Wylie avenue (serving the Hill district), Lawrenceville, the West End, that little pocket in the hills, and on top of Mount Washington. Each branch library has a collection of books varying from 30,000 volumes in the East Liberty Branch to 12,000 at the West End, and a staff of from five to thirteen assistants. As all the work of ordering and cataloguing books for all the branches is done at the Central Library, the time of all these branch assistants is given to direct work with the people who come to the branch. That means not only providing them with books, but making the

Library serve as a community social centre for its district. All the branch library buildings have auditoriums or club-rooms for community uses which furnish meeting places for clubs conducted by the Library. The South Side Branch Library, situated in a thickly populated mill district, has more clubs than any other branch. There is a Young Women's Reading Club of about thirty-five or forty young women who meet once a fortnight to listen to talks given by various interesting people in the city. Mrs Alexander Barron has given them an illustrated lecture on "Michael Angelo," Mrs Bullock has spoken on "English origins," Mrs Vermorcken has spoken on "The Louvre," Dean Bossange on "Rodin and modern French sculpture," Mrs Norman McClintock has given them an evening of songs, Mr Geoghegan, of the School of Applied Design, has talked to them on "Florentine art." I mention these specific instances not only to show you what good mental food is provided for these young women, but to express our gratitude to the very busy people who so generously give their time to the Library. There is also at the South Side a Men's Club, at whose meetings topics of the day are discussed in such a vigorous fashion that no professor from the University or the Technical Schools who goes over there to lead the discussions is a success unless he can take some heckling and hold his own. Some of the subjects which have been discussed there are: "Eugenics and socialism," "The full crew law," "The cost of war," "Is Darwin out of date?" "England in the war," the latter led by an Englishman who has since gone to the front in France. As the South Side Branch has no auditorium, these meetings are held in the boiler-room in the basement, where the men can smoke. At the continuation school recently opened by the United States Glass Company for their boy and girl employees, most of them foreigners between fourteen and sixteen years of age, it was found that many of the pupils had never been inside the South Side Branch Library, so a new club was formed at the Library for some of these girls.

The main purpose of these clubs is of course to bring the young people to the Library, in the hope that they will then learn to like good books. None of the Library clubs are merely social clubs—they are all intended to promote a love of reading and introduce people to the best books. For this it is of course desirable to catch them as young as possible, so the little children are not only supplied in the Childrens Rooms with the very best carefully selected literature of the whole world, but their interest is aroused and stimulated by story hours and clubs. I want to tell you about two interesting experiments in training the children to think about the books they read. At one of the branches the children's librarian has the children write notes about the books they like. These are posted on the bulletin board for other children to read, and the best of them are published in the weekly paper of the South Side, "The South Sider." Here is one of these notes written by a little twelve-year-old Russian Jewess on "Our mutual friend."

Here is a puzzler. What happened to John Harmon? Did Lizzie's father know? If he didn't, who did? I'm sure John Harmon met a strange fate. So will you be sure if you read the book called "Our mutual friend." Who is "Our mutual friend?" Can you guess? Read the book and find out. I know the book is thick, but the beginning is the hardest. Start it and you will have to finish it. Get the book called "Our mutual friend" and you will not regret it. It is in the library if no one has it out.

Another on a scientific book, by a Russian Jewish boy of eight.

"Stars shown to the children" is the best book to be had at the South Side Library and dear reader, I can recommend it as highly as my favors go. Those who read it are not short on astronomic knowledge. Everyone who has a card should read it.

Louis Spokas, a Lithuanian boy of ten, chooses as one of his favorites the old Irish legend of Cuchulain. He says, "The story of Cuchulain is the story which I like very much because it is the story of a very brave lad who encounters many dangers and then becomes a knight. First when he left his mother he encountered in his foster father's court many brave lads and defeated them in races, in spear throwing, and in shooting from the bow."

What girl could resist this note written by a ten-year-old girl on Lamb's "Tales from Shakespeare?"

Listen, girls, and boys, too. Read "Tales from Shakespeare" and you will not be sorry. Among the stories in it are:—The Tempest, which is about a girl and her father. She had never seen another man but her father. One day a man came and—well if you want to know about this book go to the library and ask for "Tales from Shakespeare" by Charles and Mary Lamb.

The other experiment in this same direction is being made at another branch library where there are so-called book-meetings in the Childrens Room every Saturday afternoon. At these meetings the children introduce to each other the characters in the books they have been reading, choosing themselves what books they will talk about. They present the characters as real acquaintances of theirs, telling the other children about King Midas and his love for gold, of Aladdin and his lamp, of Robinson Crusoe and his man Friday, of Petruchio and how he tamed Katharine the Shrew. The Shakespeare characters and their conversation as reported by these children lack something of the Shakespearian style, but they are very real. As a result of this meeting there is a run on the books talked about, and not a copy is left on the shelves for weeks after.

The weekly story hour in all our branch libraries and at the Central Library is well known to Pittsburgh children, who come five hundred strong on "Story hour" afternoons. They are divided into groups and listen to stories from the best literature of the world, told by trained story-tellers. The educational value of the story-telling lies in the fact that it attracts some children who would not come to read themselves, and that we there have an opportunity to see that they get

only the very best from the greatest literature of the world and from the folk-lore and mythology of all countries. At one library seven stories from the Iliad will be told in seven successive weeks; another group hears a succession of Robin Hood stories—"How Robin of Locksley became Robin Hood the Outlaw," "How Robin Hood went to the shooting match at Nottingham Town," "How the King chased Robin Hood, yet caught him not." Old ballads are read to them too—"The Ballad of Chevy Chase," "Zara's earrings," "Sir Patrick Spens," and some more modern ones, of "How well Horatius kept the bridge," "How they brought the good news from Ghent to Aix," or of Young Lochinvar who came out of the West. King Arthur legends are popular, and stories from Beowulf. Of course the telling of any story at once causes a run on all the books that contain the story; indeed when the stories are announced at the schools many of the children rush straight to the Library for the books because they know they will be out later.

For the children who do not live near any of the libraries we form reading clubs in the schools and occasionally even in the homes. The Ralston School, at Penn avenue and Fifteenth street, has one of these groups, made up of about forty Jewish, Syrian, Russian and Polish children. An assistant from the Childrens Department of the Library goes over there one afternoon each week, gives out books to the children, talks to them about the books and tells them stories. The Forward Avenue School has a group of little Croatians, Poles and Lithuanians, children of the men in Jones & Laughlin's and the National Tube Company. The Library often reaches the parents also in this way, through the children.

It would be interesting to you to see how eager the foreign population is to get the benefit of the Library. The South Side district numbers among its readers many Poles and Lithuanians, and of course many Germans. The Hazelwood Branch serves Hungarians, Italians and Poles; the Lawrenceville foreign readers are Polish, German and Italian; East Liberty, Italian; Wylie Avenue, Russian, German, Jewish and Syrian. We have collections of books in all these languages, and directions printed in different languages telling them how to use the Library, and in some of the branch libraries there is an assistant who can act as interpreter. Florence Machnikowski serves a useful purpose in this capacity at the Lawrenceville Branch, and Beatrice Naujilas can interpret for the Poles at the South Side.

This work for the foreigner so impressed a certain poet that he published in his book of poems one on the Mount Washington Branch Library. It was Robert Haven Schauffler in "The scum o' the earth, and other poems":

A Pittsburgh Library

From your smoky river-height
Radiate both warmth and light:
Warmth of understanding hearts,

Light of learning and the arts,
Beckoning "the scum of earth"
To a day of second birth.

As the furnace-flare below
Glorifies the murky flow
Of Monongahela's stream,
So you light the shadowed faces
Of these folk of sadder races,
Luring them to learn and dream.

The Wylie Avenue Branch Library, which is situated in the heart of the Hill district, could fill a library twice its size with eager readers. One of the institutions of that branch is its club of colored girls, whose members are so devoted to it that it still brings together women once living in the neighborhood who have since moved to the outskirts of the city. The number is limited to twenty-five, and there is a waiting list which must possess itself in patience, if one may judge by the fact that some of the charter members of fifteen years ago are still in the club. The members are a high class of negroes—stenographers, teachers, dressmakers, etc., and their club papers were said by a critical visitor at an open meeting not long ago to be among the best club papers she had ever heard. They have been studying the drama for three years, and have read plays—"Disraeli" and "The piper," among others—at their open meetings, where they have from one hundred to one hundred and fifty guests.

The club has a membership in the Drama League and in the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, a group of whose workers meet in the Library every fortnight.

The Library coöperates with the settlement houses and playgrounds, and with the Business High School by lending them books, and it sends out boxes of books in the summer to the fresh-air farms of the two settlements—Lillian Home and Emma Home. All this is in addition to the daily work which many people think is all that libraries do—giving out books at the loan desk. It will give an idea of the eagerness of people in that region for books when I tell you that often 1,500 books are borrowed in one day, which means issuing 125 books an hour right through the day.

There is no library in the city where better literature is in demand than at the Wylie Avenue Branch. In fiction it is the strong novels that they want, rather than the mediocre ones. Dostoyeffsky's "Crime and punishment" is in constant demand, also Tolstoï, Turgénief, Chekhov. The English classics too—Scott, Dickens, George Eliot, but for some reason not Thackeray, except possibly "Vanity Fair"—Zola is much read too, and the dramatists—Bernard Shaw, Ibsen, Hauptmann. Galsworthy's "Justice" is never on the shelves. Philosophy is popular, especially Nietzsche and Schopenhauer; everything on

the Jews; economics, especially books on socialism. These are all read by these clever Jews, many of them Russian. Religious books are favorites of the colored people, books on Bible study, Richard Moulton's "Modern reader's Bible," and lives of Christ. Books on the fine arts stand unused on the shelves, and books of European travel are not read, possibly because many readers in that region have left Europe behind them for good, and others have no plans for going abroad.

Wylie Avenue readers do not want many books on science and engineering. At the Hazelwood Branch, on the other hand, the Library is used by the many railroad men and machinists in that region. A Scotch boy has been getting books there regularly for his father, who does repair work on pumps. The wife told the Library assistants one day that the men had commented on the improvement in her husband's work; "But," she said, "I tell *you*, he doesn't tell *them* where he gets it." So that man is keeping the Library a secret for himself alone.

At the West End Branch some of the parents have become interested in the Library through the children, and the mothers' meetings held there have resulted in some of the mothers becoming regular book-borrowers. Engine Houses No. 10 and 39 furnish some of the West End Library's most devoted readers. The men in these two places borrow about forty books a month, getting them by the market-basketful. Only about a quarter of the books are fiction, the rest being travel, biography, science and history, such as: Hampson's "Paradoxes in nature and science," Stewart Edward White's "Camp and trail," Ross's "The changing Chinese," Hall's "Kitchener's mob," Lummis's "Some strange corners of our country," Kipling's "From sea to sea," Osborne's "Within prison walls."

All the branch libraries and public schools coöperate with each other in a most friendly fashion, in fact so assiduous are the librarian's attentions that there can hardly be a person in the city now who has been through the public schools in the last ten years who is not familiar with the Library and does not understand the use of reference books and a card catalogue. Regular times are appointed every week for the school children to visit by grades the branch library nearest their school. Sometimes they even begin with the kindergarten children, who are brought to the Library by their teachers, forty or fifty of them at a time and introduced to the Childrens Room. Here they look at the picture-books and listen to the story-teller, who tells them the delightful adventures of "The cock, the mouse and the little red hen," "The travels of a fox," "The three bears," "The mouse's wedding," or "Little black Sambo." They are spared instruction in the use of the card catalogue and the "Encyclopædia Britannica," but that fate is sure to come to them later. The freshman class in the Peabody High School—and there are three hundred in that one class—has been visiting the East Liberty Library this year in sections of thirty to thirty-five at a time. They are shown how to look up titles in the card catalogue, the arrangement of books on the shelves and the use of some of the reference books, and are then given problems

to make practical use at once of the instruction they have just received. The problems are something like this: Look up in the catalogue the call number of Longfellow's Poems and then find the book on the shelves. What has the Library on wireless telegraphy? Find a book that gives directions for crocheting Irish lace. What are some books in the Library for and against woman suffrage?

When the children have been taught to look up their own questions in this way they have a great advantage over their elders to whom a card catalogue is a mystery to be solved only by the expert. As a matter of fact, any one who has once been so courageous as to tackle our card catalogue finds it a good friend in need. The chief aim of the cataloguers is to make a catalogue that is as much as possible like a human being who can answer all your questions. People who think that a cataloguer's duty is done when she makes a card for each book to be put under the author's name and possibly another under the title and a third under the subject of the book know little of the pains taken before any book is ready for the public. Maud Kingsley's "Outline studies in college English" in five volumes has fifty cards in the catalogue, and as the book is in all our branches, there are also cards for it in the catalogues in the branch buildings, which means that five hundred cards had to be printed and distributed in order that the public might get the full benefit of that one book. Sometimes people are surprised to find that it is a week or more after a book comes into the Library before it is ready to be borrowed on a reader's card. If they made a tour behind the scenes they would find that each book has to go through thirty different processes after it comes from the bookshop before it is finally ready for the readers. All this can be, and often is, done in half a day if someone is in special haste for a book, but with three thousand new books a month to handle (including duplicate and branch copies), such special attention to one is expensive.

To us in the Library who know all the resources of this wonderful guide to the contents of the books it is our chief reliance, and I must confess that the gratitude that is often expressed to the reference assistants for help in time of need should really go to the nine cataloguers behind the scenes who are constantly devoting their trained intelligence to the production of the simplest and most complete guide to the books.

We are glad that Superintendent Davidson and the principals of the public schools find the training in the use of the Library as important to their pupils as any other subject in the curriculum. They also coöperate with the Library by issuing to the children the books which the Library deposits in ninety-nine school buildings in the city. It gives you a little idea of the number of books which go into the children's homes through these school agencies alone when I tell you that 25,000 public library books were borrowed for home reading in the one month of November 1916 from the collections in the schoolhouses. These collections are not only in public schools, but in many

parochial schools and in any private schools that ask for them. Some of the school collections are open in the evening for boys and girls who work during the day, and for the parents. At the Grant School building down-town we have books for the adult foreigners who are in the day and night classes.

Last year the Homewood Branch Library, which has twelve public schools in its district, arranged in the Library an exhibit of work done by public school pupils from the kindergarten up through the high school, which was visited by 6,000 school pupils and many of their parents. The exhibit was held to get children to the Library and to make them feel that it was theirs. Other instances will show the pains taken by the branch librarians to remind people that the Library is there for them to use. Last August at one branch they sent a postal card to every user of the Library who had not drawn out a book for six months, expressing the desire of the Library to be useful to them, and the hope that they would come back. The experiment was considered successful, since 16 per cent. of the people written to have been drawing books again since then. The Hazelwood librarian asked Mr Kolassy, the pastor of the Hungarian Reformed Church, to translate into Hungarian a post-card notice, which was sent out to many Hungarians, reminding them of the Hungarian books in the branch which they would like to read in the long winter evenings, and expressing the hope that the Hungarians would not be behind other foreigners in their use of the Library.

You will see that the modern library does not sit back and wait to be discovered, but conducts as active a campaign as a man who has goods to sell. We believe that the reading habit is a good habit and we try to promote it. We feel that a public institution conducted at the public expense should serve as many people as possible, and I should like to say for my fellow-workers that the whole Library force is animated with the active desire to make this Library as useful as possible to the city of Pittsburgh. There is not a person on the Library staff who has received his or her appointment through any sort of pull, personal or political. Everyone on the staff has had some training for the work, either by a year or two in a professional library school or by an apprentice course of six months in this Library.

The Library is not given to blowing its own trumpet, but I think you ought to know, as a matter for local pride, the high esteem in which your Library is held outside of Pittsburgh. A distinguished Swedish woman who was sent to the United States a few years ago by the Swedish government to study American library methods for the new Swedish Library Commission, went back and reported that the Pittsburgh Library had as fine a staff as any library in this country. It is recognized by Europeans that American public library methods are superior to their own, and that while they have the advantage of us in their great collections of books, we have advanced farther than they in methods of administering popular libraries. Before the European war the Pittsburgh Library was visited every year

by several Europeans, who came not merely on sight-seeing tours, but to investigate our work in detail.

Rudolf Tombo, writing for the "Internationale Wochenschrift" of Berlin said: "It would be difficult to find in the whole world another library which is of such benefit to all the people of a great city as is the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. By making its treasures accessible and useful alike to poor and rich, young and old, it has become a social factor of the first importance to Pittsburgh. The Library has been able to accomplish so much because the Librarian, Harrison W. Craver, is not only an expert in his profession, but has understood how to train many capable assistants, who contribute much to the organization of the Library."

The Library is also a publishing house, issuing a monthly magazine containing lists of the new books added to the Library, with descriptive notes, criticisms of the more important recent books and interesting essays on books and reading. This Monthly Bulletin, as well as many special lists and about eighty thousand catalogue cards a year are all printed in our own printing shop in the Library building.

The printed catalogue of the Pittsburgh Library is known and used as a standard catalogue in libraries all over the United States, while libraries as far afield as Heidelberg University, Cardiff, Wales, Johannisberg, South Africa, Sydney, New South Wales, and the University of the Punjab, Lahore, India, order and pay for our catalogue in eight volumes, because they find it authoritative and useful in their own bibliographical work. I mention the fact that they order and pay for it simply to show that these are not complimentary copies sent to them, but are ordered because they need them.

The Boston "Transcript," in its entertaining weekly column on libraries sends a shaft of satire or a word of approval our way occasionally. Their very favorable notice of our printed catalogue closed with these words: "Yet we suppose the Pittsburghers complain, now and then, about their library. If they do not they are the saintliest people on earth. And that is a charge we never heard brought against them."

The Lending Room of the Central Library contains about 13,000 books in its open-shelf collection, to which every one has free access. These are selected from the 100,000 volumes in the book-stacks as the best collection for people to look over who are not sure what they want. To many people the section in this room containing the music books is of particular interest. It is only during the last few years that the Library has circulated musical scores, and we are glad to spread the news of that fact to musicians. In this room is also the case with the newest books on it—only these shelves are emptied so fast that the places have to be filled with some which are not the very newest. Collections of books on special timely subjects are put out there too. One collection that interested me there lately was the "Best Sellers of Year before Last;" there are "the snows of yester year." We like to call attention occasionally to good books which a short time

ago could not be supplied in large enough numbers to satisfy the demand, but now, having passed their vogue, so to speak, stand in rows on the shelves, just because the time has passed when everybody was talking about them. The much talked of current books constitute one of the most difficult problems of the librarian. One hundred copies could not satisfy the demand at its height, but in a short time three copies will be enough. Of course he compromises, gets ten or twelve copies, cuts down the length of time they can be kept out—looks sadly at the file of reserve postals—and suffers the slings and arrows of the people who declare that it is a very poor library when the books they want are always out. The librarian's chief interest is in building up a well-balanced permanent collection of books, among which are of course included the best novels, but not necessarily *all* those which are advertised as "gripping" or as "throbbing stories of human passion." There is bound to be disagreement as to what novels should be put in and what left out, and we try as far as possible to meet the demands of different types of readers. Some member of the Library staff here reads every novel before it is bought, and you may be interested to know that out of one hundred and seventy-one so read last year, one hundred and twenty-six were accepted. The proportion of the rejected here is not so high as at the Boston Public Library, where out of seven hundred and fifty novels read only one hundred and thirty-five were accepted.

Before the cut in our appropriation which occurred in 1915, the Lending Department, in addition to its activities at the Central Library and the eight branch libraries, spread good books throughout the city by means of forty-nine stations, in engine-houses, department stores (for the employees), factories, telegraph companies and community agencies. In a year 73,000 books were circulated in this way among people who would not have got them from the Central Library or a branch. All of these stations but one had to be discontinued when the Library appropriation was reduced at one blow from $260,000 to $200,000, since we could not afford to buy enough books to supply them, nor to pay the salaries of enough assistants to do the work necessary in sending out so many books. Our appropriation has been gradually increasing again, but the Library has not yet recovered sufficiently from the poor year of 1915 to take up again the extension work so important in a city like Pittsburgh. It would now take a larger income than that of our best year to accomplish the same results, not only because the demands on the Library are greater—and we are very glad that they are—but because of the increased cost of service of the lower grades and the constantly rising price of books, which will soon amount to an increase of 20 per cent. over two years ago.

A phase of the Library's work which makes a special appeal to every one is the provision for blind readers. In this work we coöperate with the Home Teaching Society for the Blind, whose headquarters are in Philadelphia. They supply part of the books in embossed type

and pay the salary of a blind teacher, and of a guide who accompanies her on her rounds. Our Library, besides providing most of the books, has also one assistant who spends all her time directing this work. The teacher, who is a blind woman, goes into the homes of blind people and give them free instruction, chiefly to the older ones who are not eligible for instruction in most of the schools. She teaches them to read the Moon type, which is the simplest for those who have not learned in their youth, and whose fingers are less sensitive. Sometimes they are unwilling to try to learn, because they think it will be too difficult, but she is very persuasive, and when they once begin she can teach many of them in a very few lessons.

One man about fifty years old who a year ago read no blind type has learned to read easily in two kinds of type and is learning a third, "wishing," he says, "to get all the good that's going." A German woman who had been in this country for twenty years before she knew any English has learned to read both German and English in Moon type and is touchingly grateful for the increase in her happiness. In a letter dictated by her she said: "I wish to let you know that I have not read for forty years and that I am a happy woman since I learned to read the Moon type." One of the interesting cases is William P., a colored man. In teaching him the Moon type it was found that his difficulty came rather from lack of education than from trouble with the embossed type, but he was so ambitious and persistent that he has in a few years learned to read well and is now a regular borrower.

Our blind borrowers are not confined to Pittsburgh, but are scattered through twenty-four counties in western Pennsylvania, although our teacher does not go beyond a radius of twenty-five miles from Pittsburgh. We send out about twenty books a day through the mail, which, as you know, carries books for the blind free. Every one of these is selected with care by the assistant in charge, who has a complete record of everything which each blind reader has already read, as well as a pretty accurate idea of what they like, drawn from their comments on previous books. One reader wrote: "I don't like those Kenilworth books—send me 'Pilgrim's progress,' 'The sinner's friend,' 'How the lost are saved,' 'Morning watches.'" Favorites are "The rosary," "The little shepherd of Kingdom Come," "Sherlock Holmes," "Pilgrim's progress," "Rebecca of Sunnybrook farm," "Mrs Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," "Treasure island," as well as Dickens and Scott.

Perhaps some of you do not know that Pittsburgh has a unique library school. In expanding the Library's work for children, it was found long ago that in order to be sure that the assistants had the right ideals and experience it was necessary to give them training adapted to this special field, and so the Library started a training class for its own staff. As soon as this became known, other libraries asked that their assistants might also have the advantages of this training, and in response to this demand the Carnegie Library School, now in its sixteenth year, was organized. This is under the management of the

Library, but is supported not by the Library, but by the Carnegie Institute. It is the only library school in the country which trains girls for library work with children, and it attracts students from all over the United States and Canada, and even from Europe. It has graduated about three hundred students, most of whom are now holding responsible positions in libraries. In Europe the Scandinavian countries are especially alive to the modern library movement, and we have had in the school a Danish girl, who is now in the public library in Copenhagen, and a Norwegian, now in the public library at Bergen, Norway, which had been re-organized by an earlier graduate from here. In the United States the western and the southern libraries have sent many assistants here for their special training—this year's entering class of twenty-eight girls includes one from California, one from Spokane, one from Seattle and one each from Florida and Texas. The school course is two years, and consists of courses in cataloguing, the use of reference books, business methods, the selection of books, especially children's books, story-telling, social work, library work with schools, and some more technical subjects. The practice work in the branch library children's rooms, in the libraries deposited in schools, in the children's reading clubs and home libraries and in the city playgrounds is especially valuable, and incidentally the students furnish the Library with unpaid service which enables it to carry on more extensive work than could be done by the regular Library staff.

It is natural that a Pittsburgh library should develop special strength in the literature of engineering, steel manufacture, electricity, and applied science in general. In these subjects perhaps more than in others it is necessary to have experts to select the literature and as guides to its best use. Your Library was the first municipal library in the United States to develop a special reference department in these subjects, under the direction of Mr Craver, now our Librarian. This department occupies a large reading room on the third floor, which probably few of you have ever seen. There assistants who have had special engineering education or experience devote themselves to collecting and indexing the best and most recent literature in English, French and German in their field, and to making special researches in response to the many requests that come to them from experts not only in this city but other parts of the world. Modern industrial progress is so rapid as to outstrip the publication of books, so that articles in our four hundred technical periodicals, and the trade catalogues which contain the earliest printed descriptions of many processes must be indexed so as to be quickly available when needed. This is done in our Technology Reference Room so much more thoroughly than anywhere else that it is a well-recognized source of information to engineers everywhere. Our lists of books and articles on such subjects as "Metal corrosion," "Floods and flood protection," "By-product coking" and "Refuse and garbage disposal" are almost as popular as the newest fiction. The list on "Metal corrosion" was reprinted in a book by Sang on "The corrosion of iron and steel," the

National Paint Manufacturers Association ordered three hundred copies of the list, the French metallurgical journal, "Revue de Metallurgie," published in Paris, asked permission to translate it and published it under the heading "Librairie Carnegie," the British Iron and Steel Institute's Committee on Corrosion ordered fifteen hundred copies, and not being able to supply so many we gave them permission to reprint it. The Westinghouse Airbrake Company wrote a most appreciative letter about the list we published on "Air-brakes," saying it would form a valuable reference for railroad and air-brake men's libraries. The Water Supply Commission of Pennsylvania wrote that they had obtained more information from the Technology Department's list on "Floods" than they had been able to obtain from any other source. The chief bibliographer of the Library of Congress at Washington, in thanking us for some references we had given him on the metallurgy of magnetite, said they were by long odds the best he could get.

Many standard scientific and technical books within the last ten years have been largely written in our Technology Reference Room, within reach of information needed by the authors. Many technical men in consulting work come to the Technology Department of this Library for information for their clients. This is as it should be—they show their expert knowledge by going to the right place for their facts. I could fill the whole hour that I have to talk to you by giving you actual instances of the kind of aid given to the public in this department, but such cases lose much of their interest when one can neither mention names nor specify the exact information asked. Of course you will understand that any question asked at the Library is considered confidential, and it is our invariable practice not to talk about any of our "cases" except in the most general terms, because even questions that seem to the Library assistants quite innocent may have a meaning to someone who hears them repeated. The following incidents, very generally stated, show the kind of demand supplied by the Technology Department. A professor of metallurgy from a college noted for its engineering courses, after spending an afternoon investigating the resources of the Technology Room, said he was going to secure a year's leave of absence so that he might come here to finish two books which he is writing. A professor in another engineering school over two hundred miles from here sends students to this Library to write their theses on technical subjects. The other morning a manufacturing firm in a state east of Pennsylvania telegraphed us to wire them the latest statistics in regard to a certain metal. Some of the large libraries in the United States rely upon advice from here in the selection of technical books for their own libraries.

If the information wanted is not available in books or magazines it can sometimes be collected personally or by telephone. Someone telephoned one day that he had just read a German abstract of a Russian thesis, and he was extremely anxious to see the Russian original from which the abstract had been made. We had not the

Russian original, but better still we could provide the Russian author himself, who was a frequent reader in the Technology Room. An engineer in Nova Scotia, who had asked for a list of the sources of information in a subject which he was investigating, found that the material we had was so valuable to him that he ordered photographs to be made of the pages and plates in the books and sent to him.

Any good library develops a special character to fit its environment, and this Library is especially strong on its popular and industrial sides. But we have also been gradually building up during the twenty years of the Library's existence a strong reference collection which rivals that of any American library except the National Library at Washington, the public libraries of New York and Boston and the great university libraries. We have a very valuable collection of books on the local history of this region, many of them now out of print and rare, some early manuscript source material, and files of the Pittsburgh newspapers, which form the most valuable sources for local history. It was chiefly from these that our little book "Pittsburgh in 1816" was compiled a short time ago, in celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of the city charter. One of our greatest treasures is an early volume of the Pittsburgh "Gazette" of 1793–1794, which has an interesting history. It was rescued many years ago by Mr Horace Haydon from the ash-bin in his neighbor's back yard, was later sold at the auction sale of the Haydon library, where it was bought by the present owner of the "Gazette Times," bound in crushed levant and presented to the Carnegie Library. Other early Pittsburgh newspapers we have—the "Tree of Liberty" for 1800 to 1804 and the "Pittsburgh Mercury" between 1812 and 1842; a long file of the "Post" and complete files of the seven Pittsburgh dailies for the last twenty-one years. The files of several New York papers, the Boston "Transcript" and Philadelphia "Press" are also preserved and bound, and the London "Times" and Paris "Figaro." I remember a hurry call coming here from Boston two or three years ago for an abstract of some "New York Times" articles by Albert Bushnell Hart which could not be produced in any of the Boston libraries.

Our architectural books are much appreciated by the local architects and the students of architecture at the Technical Schools. Naturally these large illustrated folio volumes are very expensive, and we should not have been able to buy them out of our annual appropriation from the city. They are all a gift to the Library, bought from a fund left for that purpose by Julius D. Bernd. Many rare old books on music also came to us as a gift, purchased by a group of Pittsburghers from the private library of Karl Merz. We buy practically every book published in English on modern art, and many in French and German and Italian, the interest in this subject being stimulated by the Art Gallery exhibits. Books on design too, and all the standard works on costume are in the Reference Department. We have bound sets of the leading magazines of America, England, France and Germany, running back in some cases to before the American Revolution, and a

valuable library of Americana, which we hope some time to have in a special public room.

The constantly increasing use made of the Reference Department has been interesting to observe. Our statistics show that in every one of the twenty-one years since the Library was opened there has been an increase over the year before in the number of volumes consulted—except one year, which was the year of the rebuilding of the Library. The Technical Schools and the University of Pittsburgh, having, with the exception of the Design School, very insufficient libraries of their own, have caused us perforce to develop into a university as well as a public library.

Sometimes I am asked what can keep eight assistants busy in the Reference Department alone. Don't for a moment imagine that time hangs heavy on our hands. There is a constant stream of questions flowing in, not only from people who come personally to the Reference Room, but questions turned over to us from the branch libraries and inquiries by telephone and letter. Some of the answers require only a moment's consultation of the nearest reference book, others demand hours of research. We are especially glad to have the telephone used, to save people the trouble of coming to the Library themselves, and I am glad to say that the habit of telephoning to the Library for information is growing on people. Such questions are usually easy to answer, but even for these it requires both skill and experience to know the quickest and easiest way to dispose of them, and many of the subjects given us to look up are difficult and in some cases unsolvable. It is exciting to pursue an elusive fact to its lair and drag it triumphantly forth to the light of day. Sometimes the lair cannot be found, so there is always an uncertainty about the outcome, and sometimes failure in the end. If any one has a tendency toward self-satisfaction, reference work is guaranteed to take it out of her—as some one wrote in the Chicago "Dial" not long ago: "If one would learn the vast range and variety of his own ignorance, let him serve for a week as reference librarian of a large library."

I have only been able in this time to select here and there a few of the leading features of the Library's work to mention. Perhaps I have said enough to give you an idea that your Library is very much alive, and is in no danger of stagnation since it has such a city as Pittsburgh to serve.

Publications of the Library Now in Print

Where two prices are given, the first is that for which the publication is sold at the Library only. All prices are strictly net, except for individual publications ordered in lots of twenty or more. Remittances must be made in advance, payable to Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. All publications not marked * may be had free at the Library, or will be sent postpaid for 5 cents each.

***Classified Catalogue of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.**
FIRST SERIES, 1895–1902. 1907. vol. 1–3. 3,390 pp. $12.00.
SECOND SERIES, 1902–1906. 1908. vol. 4–5. 2,020 pp. $5.00.
THIRD SERIES, 1907–1911. 1914. vol. 6–8. 3,475 pp. $8.00.
Bound in buckram with gilt tops. Include full author and subject indexes.

The same [in pamphlet form].

FIRST SERIES, 1895–1902. 10 parts. 1903–07.
- Part 1. General Works. 1907. 67 pp. 10 cents, postpaid.
- Part 2. Philosophy and Religion. 1903. 223 pp. Out of print.
- Part 3. Sociology and Philology. 1904. 340 pp. 15 cents; postpaid, 25 cents.
- Part 4. Natural Science and Useful Arts. 1904. 598 pp. 35 cents; postpaid, 50 cents.
- Part 5. Fine Arts. 1905. 351 pp. 15 cents; postpaid, 25 cents.
- Part 6. Literature. 1905. 308 pp. 15 cents; postpaid, 25 cents.
- Part 7. Fiction. 1906. 446 pp. 25 cents; postpaid, 40 cents.
- Part 8. History and Travel. 1907. 691 pp. 50 cents; postpaid, 65 cents.
- Part 9. Biography. 1907. 381 pp. 20 cents; postpaid, 30 cents.
- Part 10. Indexes, Title-pages, Contents, Preface and Synopsis of Classification. 1907. 850 pp. $1.00; postpaid, $1.20.

SECOND SERIES, 1902–1906. 5 parts. 1907–08.
- Part 1. General Works, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology and Philology. 1907. 425 pp. Out of print.
- Part 2. Natural Science, Useful Arts and Fine Arts. 1907. 477 pp. 45 cents; postpaid, 60 cents.
- Part 3. Literature, English Fiction and Fiction in Foreign Languages. 1908. 342 pp. 40 cents; postpaid, 50 cents.
- Part 4. History and Travel, Collected Biography and Individual Biography. 1908. 465 pp. 45 cents; postpaid, 60 cents.
- Part 5. Indexes, Title-pages, Contents, Preface and Synopsis of Classification. 1908. 460 pp. 80 cents; postpaid, 95 cents.

THIRD SERIES, 1907–1911. 10 parts. 1912–14.
- Part 1. General Works, Philosophy, Religion. 1912. 372 pp. 40 cents; postpaid, 50 cents.
- Part 2. Sociology, Philology. 1912. 418 pp. 45 cents; postpaid, 60 cents.
- Part 3. Natural Science, Useful Arts. 1913. 623 pp. 60 cents; postpaid, 75 cents.
- Part 4. Fine Arts. 1913. 237 pp. 25 cents; postpaid, 35 cents.
- Part 5. Literature. 1913. 271 pp. 30 cents; postpaid, 40 cents.
- Part 6. English Fiction, Fiction in Foreign Languages. 1913. 294 pp. 30 cents; postpaid, 40 cents.
- Part 7. History and Travel. 1914. 401 pp. 40 cents; postpaid, 50 cents.
- Part 8. Biography. 1914. 276 pp. 30 cents; postpaid, 40 cents.
- Part 9. Books for the Blind. 1914. 44 pp. 5 cents; postpaid, 10 cents.
- Part 10. Indexes, Title-pages, Contents, Preface and Synopsis of Classification. 1914. 816 pp. 80 cents; postpaid, $1.00.

Monthly Bulletin. 50 cents a year, postpaid.
Not published in August and September.

Annual Reports, 1st–20th. 1897–1916. Sent free upon request.
Except the 3d and 6th, which are out of print.

Catalogue of the Carnegie Library School; a Training School for Children's Librarians. Sent free upon request.

Periodicals and Other Serials Currently Received by the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. 7th edition. 1915. 42 pp.

Books in the Library of the American Philatelic Society. 1910. 20 pp.

Carnegie Institute and Library of Pittsburgh. 1916. 32 pp.
Gift of the German Emperor [List of Books, Maps and Photographs]. 1908. 17 pp.
Rules for Filing Cards in the Dictionary Catalogues of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. 2d edition. 1917. 32 pp.
What a Public Library Finds to Do; by Elisa May Willard. 1917. 18 pp.

Reference Lists

History

Books of Interest in Connection with the European War. 1914. 26 pp.
Braddock's Expedition. 11 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, Nov. 1906.)
Expedition of General Forbes against Fort Duquesne. 1908. 20 pp.
Expeditions of Colonel Bouquet to the Ohio Country, 1763 and 1764. 11 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, Dec. 1909.)
Letters of General Forbes; Reprint of 35 Letters Relating to the Expedition against Fort Duquesne. 63 pp. 20 cents, postpaid. (Monthly Bulletin, Feb.–May 1909.)
***Pennsylvania**; a Reading List for the Use of Schools, with Special Reference to Indian Warfare and the Local History of Pittsburgh. 1911. 83 pp. 20 cents; postpaid, 25 cents.
Pittsburgh in 1816. 1916. 75 pp.
Washington's Visits to Pittsburgh and the Ohio Country. 15 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, Feb. 1908.)
The Whiskey Insurrection. 9 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, July 1906.)

Biography

Famous Royal Women; a Reading List for Girls. 1908. 11 pp.
Lives and Letters; a Selected and Annotated List. 1910. 36 pp.
***Men of Science and Industry**; a Guide to the Biographies of Scientists, Engineers, Inventors and Physicians, in the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh. 1915. 189 pp. 20 cents; postpaid, 30 cents.
Patriots; a Reading List for Boys and Girls. 1912. 17 pp.

Sociology

Housing. 1912. 45 pp.
Vocational Guidance. Supplement. 10 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, Dec. 1915.)

Debating

***Debate Index.** 2d edition. 1912. 84 pp. 15 cents; postpaid, 20 cents.
Debate Index. Supplement. 1913. 23 pp.
Debate Index. Second supplement. 1916. 15 pp.

Publications of Interest to Engineers

Air-Brakes. 1915. 55 pp.
Air Conditioning. 1914. 58 pp.
Brick Manufacture and Bricklaying. 26 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, Jan. 1912.)
By-Product Coking. 1915. 40 pp.
Electric Driving in Rolling-Mills and Foundries. 11 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, Nov. 1907.)
Electric Heating and Cooking. 1910. 16 pp.
Engineering Ethics. 1917. 17 pp.
Floods and Flood Protection. 48 pp. (Monthly Bulletin, July 1908.)
Floods and Flood Protection. Supplement. 1911. 19 pp.
Housing. 1912. 45 pp.